



DLT Awards – Nebraska

2012 Grant Awards

Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

\$253,345

Nebraska and Kansas

Areas Served: Otoe, Brown, Buffalo, Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Fillmore, Franklin, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Valley, Webster Counties, Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, and Smith Counties

Contact: Lesley LaFile

Telephone: (308) 865-2703

Congressional District: Fortenberry, 1st Dist. (NE); Smith, 3rd Dist.(NE); and Huelskamp, 1st Dist. (KA)

Rural Development funds will be used by Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation to expand telemedicine services to central Nebraska and Kansas through the Midwest Telehealth Network. The additional equipment will introduce eight more locations, providing video end points for these rural clinics to connect to the telemedicine network. Patients accompanied by rural their clinicians and doctors will be able to link to Good Samaritan and other larger hospitals from their remote location and receive one-to-one consultation, medical training, and health care coordination.

Educational Service Unit #17

\$180,000

Nebraska

Areas Served: Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, and Rock Counties

Contact: Mary Gurney

Telephone: (402) 760-2791

Congressional District: Smith, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase videoconferencing equipment for 21 public schools in this four-county area of North Central Nebraska. Grant funds also will purchase the central control equipment that manages the video connections, the content capture and streaming, and video bridging. The classes held over the system will include regular high school classes, college and dual credit, agriculture and agri-business classes and seminars, and specialty classes that are conducted in conjunction with rural attendance centers.

Mid-Plains Community College

\$123,042

Nebraska



Areas Served: Chase, Cherry, Custer, Keith, and Red Willow Counties
Contact: Terri Burchell
Telephone: (308) 535-3681
Congressional District: Smith, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds will be used to purchase video teleconferencing equipment for a distance learning system between Mid Plains Community College and their affiliated end user campuses in this 18-county area of Western Nebraska. Equipment will be installed in campus locations at Broken Bow, Ogallala and Valentine, and video communications bridge equipment will be installed at Broken Bow. The equipment will allow the College to expand dual high school college credits and other coursework leading to a number of degrees, certification and licensing. Collaboration with various industries bonds the project to job and career training, with an immediate focus on increasing the number of qualified nursing professionals. This will address the nursing shortage in rural and frontier areas, and save students the 100- to 200-mile daily round-trip they currently travel to attend certification classes.

Educational Service Unit #16

\$412,925

Nebraska

Areas Served: Arthur, Chase, Custer, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, and Thomas Counties

Contact: Scott Jones

Telephone: (308) 534-2427

Congressional District: Smith, 3rd Dist.

Rural Development funds are being used in a system-wide upgrade to outfit schools with video conferencing equipment and updating their video bridge in this vast sparsely populated area Southwest Nebraska. The modernized bridge unit is better able to leverage available bandwidth. This allows for richer content to run through the system while using less bandwidth expenses, thus saving on connection expenses. The project will provide students and others in their communities with expanded curriculum offerings, virtual travel opportunities, and career advancement.



2011 Grant Awards

Alegent Health

Nebraska, Iowa

\$500,000

Areas Served: NE: Burt, Colfax, & Washington Counties; IA: Adams, Harrison, & Taylor Counties

Contact: Mr. Rodney Triplett

Telephone: (402) 657-5223

Congressional District: NE: Fortenberry, 1st; IA: King, 5th

Three urban hospitals, two in Omaha, one in Papillion, Neb., will serve as hubs to support specialty services in cardiology, endocrinology and nephrology to 13 primary care centers at rural hospitals in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa, with funding assistance from the USDA Rural Development's Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program. Each video end point location will have a medical cart with video conferencing equipment, a telephonic stethoscope, ENT otoscope, and exam camera so that rural medical staff can bring specialists into the rural exam room via the telemedicine equipment. The main hub sites will receive a video communications server to manage the video network and a content server, capable of archiving and streaming teaching events and courses for medical education. Having a robust venue for continuing medical education from large urban hospitals to rural clinics will help to reduce medical professional isolation at those locations. With this project Alegent hopes to eliminate 60 percent of patient travel to hospitals and specialty clinics, and decrease by 55 percent the number of patients with heart disease, diabetes or kidney disease by providing regular medical attention to those who otherwise would have had worsening symptoms. Alegent will match grant funds with \$411,446 of local funding.

Educational Service Unit # 9

Nebraska

\$57,341

Areas Served: Adams, Clay, Douglas, Hamilton, Lancaster, Lincoln, & Nuckolls Counties

Contact: Mr. Chris Petroff

Telephone: (402) 463-7171

Congressional District: Smith, 3rd

USDA Rural Development funds will help ESU #9 to purchase and put into place distance learning equipment for their consortium of ten K-12 schools in South Central Nebraska. Nine are in exceptionally rural areas. As with many exceptionally rural areas, these communities have experienced a declining population, due to chronic out-migration and aging. These and other economic factors contribute to exact a multiplier effect, wiping out a school system's



resources. The video conferencing equipment that will be installed at the hub and the end-user sites will provide a pathway for students to step into a rich academic experience, with virtual field trips and access to high demand classes that would otherwise be unavailable, such as advanced math, agriculture, foreign language, music theory, humanities, career development classes in harnessing educational technology. ESU #9 will match grant funds with \$60,304 of local funding.

2010 Grant Awards

Faith Regional Health Services

\$152,672

Nebraska

Counties: Madison, Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Pierce, and Rock,

Contact: Ms. Sally Pieper, (402) 644-7349

Fortenberry, 1st Dist. and Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used to expand Faith Regional Health Services' tele-health network by increasing the number of bedside electronic cardiac monitors and related equipment in 7 rural hospitals in northeast Nebraska. FRHS will also update tele-medical equipment in its existing critical access hospitals, in all to enhance cardiac testing services and to further cardiac care and professional consultation. These services are being developed in response to the scarcity of rural medical professionals and resources in the midst of an increasingly elderly population of rural Nebraska.

Educational Service Unit 13

\$172,958

Nebraska

Counties: Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deul, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux

Contact: Mr. BJ Peters, (308) 635-3696

Smith, 3rd Dist

RUS funds will be used for this distance learning project that serves the remote Nebraska panhandle to expand a system put in place as a result of a 2009 RUS DLT grant. To address a shortage of agriculture-based high school programs, agriculture and leadership programs will be a highlighted feature of the enhanced system. College and dual credit courses will also be offered, as well as staff development training. The upgrade includes an audio bridge, which will enable more schools participating not yet possessing interactive video capabilities.

Educational Service Unit 10

\$494,011



Counties: Blaine, Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Franklin, Garfield, Gosper, Greely, Hall, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Loup, Phelps, Sherman, and Valley,
Contact: Mr. John Stritt, (308) 865-5664
Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used for this distance learning project that will serve a consortium of 40 School districts and Education Service Units. It will provide distance learning to 91 schools, most of which are in exceptionally rural areas. Advanced placement courses, foreign languages, and advanced science classes will now become available as a result of the funded equipment and its interactive software. Professional development for instructors and collaboration amongst participating schools are also featured in this central Nebraska educational network

Educational Service Unit #8

\$213,070

Nebraska

Counties: Madison, Stanton, Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Cherry, Grant, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Pierce, Rock, and Wheeler
Contact: Ms. Diane M. Wolfe
Fortenberry; 1st Dist. and Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used by Northeast Community College to connect with 28 high schools in northeast and north central Nebraska with an emphasis on agricultural career opportunities. Equipment from an older distance learning system will be updated with modern and portable units for more flexibility and better interoperability. The system will be available during after school hours to promote opportunities for students of all ages in the participating communities.

Educational Service Unit #1

\$193,344

Nebraska

Counties: Cedar, Dixon, Madison, Thurston, Wayne, and Knox
Contact: Ms. Diane M. Wolfe, (402) 721-1770
Fortenberry, 1st and Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used by Northeast Community College in Madison to establish a link with 16 high schools to expand educational and career opportunities in northeast Nebraska. Like other Nebraska distance learning projects, agricultural education is a key feature to the offered coursework. This project will install new video equipment where needed and replace outdated components for more portability and better interoperability. Advanced placement coursework and collaborative programs are also featured in the planned upgraded system. After hours use of the equipment will be available for multi-purposes in the community, including programs offered by University of Nebraska extension services and tele-health providers.



Educational Service Unit #2

\$145,290

Nebraska

Counties: Burt, Butler, Colfax, Dodge, Madison, Saunders, Platte, Boone, Merrick, and Nance

Contact: Ms. Diane M. Wolfe, (402) 721-1770

Fortenberry, 1st Dist and Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used to increase the availability of courses and education programming to support agricultural career opportunities for students of 17 high schools in eastern Nebraska by connecting with each other and with Northeast Community College. The project includes increasing the number of portable video-conferencing units and upgrading the video routing capabilities of current classrooms. The expansion of agricultural education is imperative to support the agriculturally based economy of rural Nebraska.

University of Nebraska Medical Center

\$96,161

Nebraska

Counties: Scotts Bluff, Brown, Dawes, Garfield

Contact: Ms. Deborah D. Vetter, (402) 559-7456

Smith, 3rd Dist.

RUS funds will be used by the University of Nebraska Medical Center for video conferencing to train dental professionals, and to raise public awareness and facilitate communications on the overall importance of dental health in rural Nebraska. The video system will connect medical professionals and make available educational programming from the university to 2 dental clinics and 2 community action partnerships in a 4 county area to establish this unique program. They hope to build a cadre of rural dental professionals and through communications efforts and face-to-face meetings via the video network make strides in improving the dental health of rural residents in Nebraska.

2009 Grant Awards

Educational Service Unit 13

\$500,000

Nebraska

Counties Served: Banner, Box, Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Duell, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan Sioux

Contact: Dr. Jeff West

Telephone: 308-635-3696

Congressional District: Adrian Smith, NE-3



This project will link 27 rural schools to each other so that they can share classes and other resources. It will also link them to the state distance learning system, Network Nebraska. The focus of the system will be on agriculture courses and leadership programs such as those offered by the Future Farmers of America.

Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

\$195,722

Nebraska, Kansas

Counties Served: (NE) Buffalo, Brown, Rock, Dundy, Custer, Furnas, Dawson, Franklin, Chase, Kearney, Valley, Webster, Harlan, Phelps, Red Willow, Holt, Phillips. (KS) Norton, Smith

Contact: Mrs. Lesley Bollwitt-Maria

Congressional District: Adrian Smith, NE-3; Jerry Moran, KS-1

This project will link 22 rural hospitals with video-conferencing equipment so that they can share resources and consult with outside medical providers. It is envisioned that the equipment will be used in virtually every type of care provided by the hospitals.

2008 Grant Awards

Alegent Health

Nebraska, Louisiana

\$383,996

Areas Served: NE: Colfax, Cuming, Washington, 1st Dist., Holt, 3rd Dist.

IA: Adams and Harrison, 5th Dist.

Contact: Mr. Rodney Triplett

Telephone: (402) 657-5223

Congressional District: NE: Fortenberry, 1st, Smith, 3rd

IA: Steve King, 5th

Rural Development funding will enable Alegent Health eHospital intensivists, pharmacists, and critical care nurses to deliver expert services to patients and medical professionals at six critical access hospitals in rural Nebraska. This system will make first class emergency and critical health care available to thousands of rural residents utilizing the medical services of CAH's that currently have limited specialist availability.

Distance Education Council

Nebraska

\$307,637

Areas Served: Wayne, 1st Dist.; Antelope, Buffalo, Cherry, Furnas, Frontier, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Phelps, Rock, 3rd Dist.

Contact: Mr. Gordon Roethemeyer



Telephone: (308) 865-5664
Congressional District: Fortenberry, 1st, Smith, 3rd

Rural Development grant funds will be utilized to place mobile cart videoconferencing systems in each participant school. This project includes eight Educational Service Units and 32 rural high schools. The project will provide students with access to dual-credit courses for both high school and college credit, advanced courses in math, agriculture, foreign language, and provide professional enrichment and development activities for teachers.

Educational Service Unit No. 1

Nebraska
\$142,546

Areas Served: Cedar, 1st & 3rd Dists.; Dakota, Thurston, Dixon, Wayne, 1st Dist.; Knox, 3rd Dist.

Contact: Ms. Diane M. Wolfe
Telephone: (402) 721-7710 ext. 220
Congressional District: Fortenberry, 1st, Smith, 3rd

Rural Development grant funds will enable connectivity between ESU #1 and Northeast Community College for the purposes of providing educational opportunities associated with agriculture courses and leadership programs including Future Farmers of America (FFA) through interactive distance learning. Current communications equipment will be upgraded and the proposed network will provide greater flexibility and interoperability for the predominantly rural communities throughout the state.

Educational Service Unit No. 2

Nebraska
\$304,096

Areas Served: Saunders, Cuming, Burt, 1st Dist.; Boone, Merrick, Nance, 3rd Dist

Contact: Ms. Diane M. Wolfe
Telephone: (402) 721-7710 ext. 220
Congressional District: Fortenberry, 1st and Smith, 3rd

Rural Development grant funds will enable connectivity between ESU #2 and #7 and Northeast Community College for the purposes of providing educational opportunities associated with agriculture courses and preparatory courses designed to prepare students to enter the newly created bio-fuels program at NECC through interactive distance learning. Current communications equipment will be upgraded and the proposed network will provide greater flexibility and interoperability for the predominantly rural communities throughout the state.



Educational Service Unit No. 5

Nebraska

\$315,031

Areas Served: Washington, Richardson, Johnson, Otoe, Gage, Seward, Pawnee, 1st Dist. Sarpy, 1st & 2nd Dists; Fillmore, Thayer, Saline, 3rd Dist.

Contact: Mr. Al Schneider

Telephone: (402) 223-5277

Congressional District: Fortenberry, 1st; Terry, 2nd; Smith, 3rd

Rural Development grant funding will help participating schools broaden their access to distance learning delivered opportunities by installing a new Multipoint Control Unit that allows schools to connect to dissimilar systems outside our network. The Rural Development grant funds will provide for upgraded equipment and allow member schools to upgrade their local area networks so that teachers can access distance learning sessions as a simple plug-and-play application in their own classroom.

Educational Service Unit # 16

Nebraska

\$391,840

Areas Served: Chase, Dundy, Furnas, Hayes, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, Perkins, Red Willow, and Thomas, 3rd Dist.

Contact: Mrs. Shirley J. Schall

Telephone: (308) 334-5160

Congressional District: Smith, 3rd

Rural Development funds will be used by ESU #16 to implement the 21st Century Distance Learning Classroom Project. Interactive distance learning will serve thirty-two end-user sites which will provide simultaneous distance learning classrooms for students, opportunities for community members to take college courses, and offer professional development opportunities to teachers in remote rural districts of Nebraska.

Crawford Public Schools

Nebraska & South Dakota

\$216,825

Areas Served: NE: Dawes, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, 3rd

SD: Todd

Contact: Mr. Merrell Nelson

Telephone: (308) 665-1537

Congressional District: NE: Smith, 3rd Dist.: SD: Sandlin



Rural Development grant funds will be used by Crawford Public Schools for synchronous distance learning technology. There are twenty-eight participating hub/end-user sites in the project. Distance learning will include advanced placement courses for high-achieving students, remedial courses for students with deficits, electives such as journalism, short-story writing, psychology, micro-economics, and a variety of foreign languages.

Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

Nebraska

\$249,998

Areas Served: Antelope, Boyd, Brown, Franklin, Furnas, Garfield, Gosper, Harlan, Holt, Kearney, Keya Paha, 3rd Dist.

Contact: Mr. Jeff Harvey

Telephone: (402) 274-4954

Congressional District: Smith, 3rd

Rural Development grant funds will be used to expand the current home healthcare system already in place and incorporate telehealth delivery of skilled and non-skilled services to additional rural patients located in three distinct rural areas of Nebraska. Telemedicine home monitoring devices will provide healthcare providers with daily profiles of the patient's condition as well as prompt the patient to respond to programmed clinical assessment questions related to their specific health condition. The data will be reported to the care giver and graphed to meet the patient and providers needs.

2007 Grant Awards

Faith Regional Health Services, Inc.

Nebraska

\$149,435

Areas Served: Madison, Antelope, Holt, Knox, Pierce

Contact: Ms. Sally McKenzie

Telephone: 402-644-7349

Fax: 402-644-7362

Congressional District: NE – 1 Fortenberry , NE – 3 Smith

This grant will expand an existing Rural Development project by providing wireless cardiac monitors worn by the patients and monitored by hospital staff. The project will also provide for remote telehealth consults in the area psychiatry, infectious disease, nephrology and other specialties. Training opportunities will be enhanced through recording conferences that will be available for viewing on demand.



Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

Nebraska, Kansas

\$116,952

Areas Served: Buffalo, Brown, Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Furnas, Harlan, Holt, Kearney, Phelps, Red Willow, Rock, Valley, Webster, Jewell, Norton, Phillips, Smith

Contact: Ms. Lesley Bollwit

Telephone: 308-865-2703

Fax: 308-865-2933

Congressional District: NE – 03 Smith, KS – 01 Moran

This project will use telemedicine equipment to provide telepharmacy, forensic interviewing and Hispanic medical interpretation for 22 sites rural sites in central Nebraska and Kansas. They will be electronically linked to a regional hospital center in Kearney, Nebraska.

Educational Service Unit # 8

Nebraska

\$474,424

Areas Served: Madison; Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Pierce, Wheeler

Contact: Diane M. Wolfe

Telephone: 402-721-7710

Fax: 402-721-7712

Congressional District: NE – 1 Fortenberry; NE – 3 Smith

This project will connect educational entities in the Educational Service Unit # 8 service area with Northeast Community College for the purpose of providing educational opportunities including agriculture courses and leadership programs including Future Farmers of America. The project will also upgrade an existing distance learning network to improve content delivery through the installation of enhanced broadcast equipment for the transmission of digital content to end-users.

Educational Service Unit 17

Nebraska

\$500,000

Areas Served: Butler, Colfax, Madison; Boone, Brown, Cherry, Keya Paha, Polk, Platte, Rock, Nance

Contact: Ms. Diane Wolfe

Telephone: 402-721-7710 x220

Fax: 402-721-7712

Congressional District: NE – 01 Fortenberry; NE – 03 Smith



This distance learning project will provide college preparatory courses for students with interests in agriculture and bio fuels studies.

2006 Grant Awards

Educational Service Unit No. 5

Beatrice, NE

\$484,684

Areas Served: Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York

Contact: Mr. Al L. Schneider

Telephone: 402-223-5277

Fax: 402-223-5279

Congressional District: NE-01

Rural Development funds will be used to assist local schools in acquiring cutting-edge teleconferencing technology. Mobile carts will be utilized in the classrooms along with local area networks that will provide a plug-and-play environment for distance learning. Videoconferencing sites will increase an existing distance learning system from four to eight sites and archiving capability will create libraries for digital review and learning.

Educational Service Unit 10

Kearney, NE

\$384,803

Areas Served: Blaine, Boone, Buffalo, Custer, Dawson, Franklin, Garfield, Gosper, Greeley, Hall, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Phelps, Polk, Sherman, Valley

Contact: Mr. John E. Stritt

Telephone: 308-865-5664

Fax: 308-233-9066

Congressional District: NE-03

Rural Development funds will be used to implement the Central Nebraska Distance Learning Coalition (CNDLC). A major component will be the acquisition of CODEC units and routers as well as additional audio/video equipment. The project will significantly enhance the telecommunications infrastructure available throughout the target area to provide rural students with enhanced quality academic programming. Specifically, the project will offer supportive distance learning equipment, professional development opportunities, improved telehealth curriculum and coordination of synchronous programming within the district.



Educational Service Unit # 16

Ogallala, NE

\$481,681

Areas Served: Chase, Custer, Dundy, Frontier, Furnace, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, Perkins, Red Willow, Thomas

Contact: Ms. Shirley J. Schall

Telephone: 308-334-5160

Fax: 308-334-5581

Congressional District: NE-03

Rural Development funds will be used to extend distance learning opportunities and provide expanded course offerings in the schools and communities of rural Nebraska. The project will utilize interactive distance learning studio equipment to also provide professional development content for faculty and staff.

Faith Regional Health Services, Inc.

Norfolk, Nebraska

\$194,000

Areas Served: Antelope, Boyd, Knox, Madison, and Pierce

Contact: Ms. Sally M. McKenzie

Telephone: 402-644-7349

Fax: 402-644-7362

Congressional Districts: NE-01, 03

Rural Development funds will be used to expand the Faith Regional Health Services telehealth system by providing a bedside cardiac monitoring system for 24-hour acute inpatient cardiac status observation, a Holter monitoring and scanning service, and an event monitor and receiving center which will connect five critical access hospitals.

Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

Kearney, NE

\$123,866

Areas Served: Brown, Buffalo, Chase, Custer, Dawson, Dundy, Franklin, Furnas, Holt, Kearney, Phelps, Rock, Red Willow

Contact: Ms. Lesley A. Bollwitt

Telephone: 308-865-2703

Fax: 308-865-2933

Congressional District: NE-03

Rural Development funds will be used to provide telemedicine services in central Nebraska. Telecommunications equipment for the project will provide additional clinical services to sixteen rural end-user sites. Services to be provided will



include Teletrauma and emergency mental health care, multi-lingual medical interpretation and additional health care provider education.

The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, dba Nemaha County Good Samaritan Center

Auburn, NE

\$118,079

Areas Served: Nemaha, Richardson

Contact: Mr. Jeff B. Harvey

Telephone: 402-274-4954

Fax: 402-274-4424

Congressional District: NE-01

Rural Development funds will be used to expand home health care to residents of rural Nebraska. The home telemonitoring units will primarily utilize existing standard telephone service to transmit patient data to a secure collection point. Units in the home will allow clients to receive medication prompts and will prompt the client to respond to programmed clinical assessment questions related to their specific condition.

2005 Grant Awards:

Educational Service Unit # 15

Trenton, NE

\$378,800

Areas Served: Custer, Dundy, Furnas, Frontier, Chase, Grant, Keith, Hayes, Harlan, Hooker, Hitchcock, Lincoln, Logan, Red Willow, Thomas Counties

Contact: Shirley J. Schall

Telephone: 308-334-5160

Fax: 573-633-2138

Congressional District: NE-03

Forty-one rural schools will connect to four hub sites providing teacher and technician training, educational training, job instruction, and job advancement opportunities. Interactive distance learning studio equipment will facilitate services to 4,476 students.

Chase County High School

Imperial, NE

\$183,100

Areas Served: Chase, Arthur, Perkins, McPherson, Keith, Lincoln, Red Willow Counties

Contact: Shirley J. Schall



Telephone: 308-334-5160
Fax: 308-334-5581
Congressional District: NE-03

This project establishes distance learning studios at 15 rural schools. It will also provide teacher and technician training and will benefit the communities involved with educational training, job instruction, and job advancement opportunities for the citizens served by the school districts. A total of 2,516 students, 219 teachers, and almost 10,000 residents will benefit from the project.

2004 Grant Awards:

Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation

Kearney, Nebraska
\$284,766

Area(s) served: Twenty-eight county area in Central, Northern and Southwest Nebraska and North-central Kansas

Contact: Lesley A. Bollwitt, 308-865-2703; Fax 308-865-2933
Congressional District(s): Applicant - NE-03; Project - NE-03, KS-01

Mid-Nebraska Telemedicine Network (MNTN), established in 1995, will use RUS funds to expand and enhance current services currently. Barriers to specialty health care such as severe winter weather, lack of public transportation, long distances to travel, increased poverty and the increasing age of patients make this project essential. The project will focus on clinical services, distance education, teleradiology services and health information. The target population for this project includes 187,471 individuals who reside in the 28-county area.

2003 Grant Awards:

Educational Service Unit # 5; Beatrice, NE

\$153,300

Area(s) Served: Counties of Gage, Jefferson and Thayer
Contact: Al Schneider (402) 223-5277; Fax: (402) 223-5279
Congressional District(s): Applicant 1st and Project 3rd

Educational Service Unit # 5 will utilize RUS grant funds to expand existing school nursing services provided at twenty-one public schools located in Gage, Jefferson, and Thayer Counties in Southeastern Nebraska. The specific benefits to be gained through this project will include an increase in school nurse availability to students through two-way interactive video contact, an improved access to health care resources for students, faculty, and staff of the public schools through distance learning training courses, and increased health education classes for students.



2002 Award:

Rural Health Partners, Inc d.b.a. Heartland Health Alliance; Holbrook, Nebraska

\$164,640 Grant

Area(s) Served: David City in Butler County; Henderson in York County; McCook in Red Willow County; Red Cloud in Webster County; Superior in Nuckolls County; and, Tecumseh in Johnson County

Contact: Kenneth L. Foster (402) 481-9934; Fax: (402) 481-8306

Congressional District(s): Applicant: 3rd / Project: 1st and 3rd

Rural Health Partners, Inc., d.b.a. Heartland Health Alliance (HHA), a 33 member hospital network in Nebraska and Northeast Kansas, will use RUS grant funds to expand local medical and educational programming opportunities and improve the quality of health care to rural residents in Nebraska. HHA is the largest hospital network in the State of Nebraska. In fiscal year (FY) 2001, HHA received RUS grant funds which are currently being used to include eight (8) rural Nebraska hospitals in the HHA network. This year's grant award (FY 2002) will be used to install the Interactive Video/Distance Learning Network at four (4) additional rural hospitals and two (2) health care centers throughout Nebraska. HHA's Interactive Video/Distance Learning Network is and will continue to be predominately used for medical and education distance learning. However, HHA's network infrastructure can be utilized for other telehealth activities, such as telemedicine consults. In the future, HHA will be working cooperatively with its local hospitals and physicians to utilize the system for telemedicine consults. For the six (6) rural hospital sites in this grant proposal, it is expected that HHA will utilize an existing contract to install interactive video utilizing fiber optics. In the event it is determined that fiber optics are not available or cost prohibitive, access to the network will be made available through high-speed lines. Funding will assist these hospitals with the costs of dedicated transmission and classroom equipment. Each of the rural hospitals included in this grant have dedicated space for interactive video classroom and dedicated staff for this project. This project could potentially serve 16,479 rural residents in the six end-user site location.

North Platte Nebraska Hospital Corporation, d.b.a. Great Plains Regional Medical Center; North Platte, NE

\$484,000 Grant

Area(s) Served: Counties of Box Butte, Dundy, Custer, Furnas, Dawson, Perkins, Chase, Red Willow, Lincoln, Decatur, Keith, Valley, Cherry

Contact: Kim Dyer (308) 535-7495; (308) Fax: (308) 534-5422

Congressional District(s): Applicant 3rd; Project 1st

The North Platte Nebraska Hospital Corporation will use RUS funds to expand a tele-radiology project that began in 1999. The first three phases of a twelve-phase project have been completed. The initial phases, one of which was funded



by a RUS grant in FY 2000, have established the basic electronic links between the central hub site and the participating facilities. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase an Ultrasound Mini Picture Archiving Communications System that will enable 14 rural hospital to operate as though they had a radiologist on staff to read and interpret moving ultrasound images in real-time. This system will require fewer repeat exams, decreased turn-around time for results and diagnoses, less travel for patients that need the services and a greater degree of confidence in the diagnosis. It will also be used to provide training opportunities for sonographers. The project service area includes 21 counties in Nebraska and one county in Kansas and covers over 26,000 square miles. Of those counties 15 have been determined to be Medically Underserved Areas by the Department of Health and Human Services which stresses the dire need for health professionals and services in the area. It is the combination of an extremely large service area and the lack of medical providers that underscores the need for this important project. Over 143,000 rural residents have the potential to benefit from this project.

2001 Grant Awards:

Crossroads Distance Learning Education Consortium; Columbus, Nebraska

\$433,830 Grant

Area(s) Served: Butler, Merrick, Platte and Polk Counties

Contact: Ms. Phyllis Brunken; Phone: (402) 564-5753; FAX: (402) 563-1121

Congressional Districts: 1st and 3rd

Crossroads Distance Learning Education Consortium (CDLEC), is a consortium of school districts located in east-central Nebraska. CDLEC proposes to create an interactive video network to provide a broadened curriculum and better preparation of post-secondary education for the students, staff and community adults of the participating school districts. The school districts involved in this project include Columbus, David City, East Butler, High Plains, Humphrey, Osceola, Rising City, Schuyler, Shelby and Stromsburg. Educational Service Units (ESUs) are Nebraska's intermediary educational agencies, responsible for providing shared services such as staff development, special education services, technology and curriculum support to schools within their region. RUS grant funds in conjunction with matching funds from CDLEC, will be used to purchase digital equipment, compatible with current industry digital standards and circuits, to interconnect the schools with one another by cable, fiber optics, and/or copper wire. The anticipated benefits of this project include providing advanced placement and college-level courses to students; and involving the community in the use of technology for personal and career development.



Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network c/o Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital; Lincoln, Nebraska

\$306,110 Grant

Area(s) served: Saline, Dodge, and Saunders Counties

Contact: Ms. Jolene Davidson; (402) 483-7102; FAX: (402) 483-8285;

Congressional District: 1st

The Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital has been awarded a Rural Utilities Service Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grant of \$306,110 to use for a telemedicine project called the Mid-American Rehabilitation Telehealth Network (MRTN). Members of the MRTN include the: (1) Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska; (2) Wilber Care Center (Wilber, Nebraska); (3) Ashland Care Center (Ashland, Nebraska); and, (4) Fremont Area Medical Center (Fremont, Nebraska). The goal of this telehealth system is to assure that rural residents have immediate access to quality rehabilitation care. Specifically, a hub-and-spoke telehealth system that will link community care centers and long-term care centers for patient consultation and treatment; education for patients, care providers, families, and community members; support groups, and for family/patient visitation. Patients will be able to receive care from rehabilitation professionals without leaving their home area. Continuing education opportunities will also be offered including Certified Nursing Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse Certification training, in-services, and Grand Rounds. Specialists at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital will collaborate on and share leading-edge technology with clinicians in the connecting rehabilitation departments. This project will benefit approximately 90,000 rural residents.

Rural Health Partners, Inc., d.b.a Heartland Health Alliance; Lexington, Nebraska

\$196,012 Grant

Area(s) Served: Boone, Nemaha, Saline, Jefferson, Phelps, Valley, Johnson, Garden Counties

Contact: Shelia Rowe; (308) 324-3050; Fax: (308) 324-3055

Congressional Districts: 1st and 3rd

Heartland Health Alliance (HHA) is a 32 member hospital network in Nebraska and northeast Kansas. HHA believes that in order to provide the best medical care to patients, medical staff must have access to medical and educational programming. Currently, six HHA hospitals have interactive video systems installed at their facilities. The purpose of this project is to install interactive video systems at eight additional HHA rural hospitals. The eight hospitals are: Boone County Health Center (Albion), Crete Municipal Hospital (Crete), Jefferson Community Health Center (Fairbury), Johnson County Hospital (Tecumseh), Phelps Memorial Health Center (Holdrege) Valley County Hospitals (Ord), Cherry County Hospital (Valentine), and Garden County Hospital (Oshkosh). The installation of these systems will assist the rural hospitals with expanding the



local medical and educational programming opportunities and thus improve the medical care provided to the rural residents. The original six hospitals will also benefit from this project because the addition of the sites will enhance and expand their networking opportunities. This project has the potential to benefit approximately 33 physicians, 626 nurses and 23,899 rural residents.

2000 Awards:

EDGERTON EXPLORIT CENTER, C/O EDGERTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION, Aurora, Nebraska

\$277,605 Grant

Area(s) served: Clay, Hall, Hamilton and Nuckolls Counties

Contact: Mr. Mark Kremer, (402) 694-4032, FAX: (402) 694-4035

Congressional District: 3rd

The Edgerton Education Foundation (EEF) plans to equip the Edgerton Explorit Center (EEC), which provides science, math and technology programming for students, teachers and families of Nebraska. The EEF plans to acquire equipment, software and instructional programming needed to create a distance learning hub which can produce and deliver science, math and technology programming via distance learning to the rural schools of Nebraska. The project includes three end-user sites at Clay Center, Doniphan and Superior, Nebraska. In addition to participating in this project as end-user sites, the schools will be linked to the Central Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium presently comprised of nine schools that already have distance learning classrooms. The number of K-12 students enrolled at the three schools are 1,228 with more than 25,281 residents that will be able to access two-way video-conferencing programs in Clay Center, Superior, Doniphan and the EEC in Aurora.

NORTH PLATTE NEBRASKA HOSPITAL CORPORATION, North Platte, Nebraska

\$349,700 Grant

Area(s) served: Nebraska - Custer, Dawson, Furnas, Red Willow, Dundy, Chase, Perkins, Keith, Cherry Valley, and Lincoln Counties; Kansas: Decatur County

Contact: Ms. Lucinda A. Bradley, (308) 535-7495, FAX: (308) 534-5422

Congressional Districts: Nebraska - 3rd, Kansas - 1st

Great Plains Regional Medical Center (GPRMC) will serve as fiscal agent for the North Platte Nebraska Hospital Corporation. The Center will serve as the focal point of this system. GPRMC is proposing to develop a wide area network pictorial archiving communication system (WAN PACS) for the transmission, interpretation, storage, and availability of CT, MRI, Nuclear and Ultrasound imaging modalities. It is anticipated that the project will improve the quality of



health care for rural residents by making it possible for radiologists to manipulate images and interact with physicians in rural, isolated communities.

1999 Award:

Chase 3000, Inc.; Imperial, Nebraska

\$350,000 Grant

Counties Served: Chase, Perkins, and Phillips

Contact: Mr. Steve Smith, (308) 882-3000: Fax (308) 882-3001

Chase 3000, Inc. (Chase) was established in 1996 to provide Internet service to rural residents of Chase County. Through its Rural America's Right to Equal (R.A.R.E.) Access project, Chase's project will provide approximately 400 rural households with access to high-speed communications and distance learning opportunities through the use of wireless technology. Chase plans to connect the hospital, the school, the library, and senior services to the network. Funds will be provided to install computer equipment and wireless equipment in area residents' homes, subsidized by funds from each household. In addition, Chase will provide training opportunities at its Learning Center to enable those people who have never used computer equipment to learn how to use the tools provided.

1998 Awards:

Faith Regional Health Services

\$350,000 Grant

Location: Norfolk, Nebraska

Area(s) served: Cherry, Brown Rock, Keya Paha, Boyd, Holt, Knox, Antelope, Pierce and Madison

Contact Robert Driewer

Telephone Number: (402) 371-4880

Fax Number: 402-644-7468

Congressional District: 3rd.

Faith Regional Health Services is the applicant for this proposed project of the Northcentral Nebraska Telemedicine Network. An aging population is a major concern to rural Nebraska hospitals. Elderly patients generally have a limited ability to travel and require specialized services on a regular basis. The goal of the proposed telemedicine system to be funded by the RUS grant is to assure that everyone in the service area has immediate access to quality medical care. The eight hospitals involved serve a population of 86,000 residents.



Educational Service Unit No. 5, Southeast Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium

\$118,309 Grant / \$119,191 Loan

Total: \$237,500

Location: Beatrice, Nebraska

Area(s) served: Jefferson, Richardson and Thayer

Contact Mr. Al Schneider

Telephone Number: (402) 223-5277

Fax Number: (402) 223-5279

Congressional District: 1st.

The Southeast Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium will provide two-way interactive classrooms in eight high schools. This proposed project will link to forty-four high schools, four intermediate agencies, four community college sites, two state college sites, and the Nebraska Department of Education, which is fully funded, and in the implementation phase. The classrooms will provide opportunities for high school students and adults to participate in college courses and provide teacher and community training.

Northeast Community College

\$55,242 Grant / \$80,968 Loan

Total: \$136,210

Location: Norfolk, Nebraska

Area(s) served: Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Garfield, Holt, Keya Paya, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Rock, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne, and Wheeler

Contact Ms. Mary Honke

Telephone Number: (402) 644-0469

Fax Number: (402) 644-0650

Congressional District: 1st.

Northeast Community College is a state college that plans to provide interactive distance learning opportunities to 101 rural communities in a twenty county area, spread out over 14,000 square miles. Through the establishment of distance learning facilities that will serve 49 schools and 84,000 students, the college will provide learning opportunities to its constituents that will enable residents to stay close to their home areas. Research indicates that 90 percent of rural Nebraska high school students leave their communities after graduation. As the situation presently exists, the state of Nebraska expects population decreases in half of the counties served by the college. The potential benefits to the communities include increased retention of highly skilled and talented workers, attracting and retaining new businesses, and increasing the quality of life. Coursework offerings will include credit programs at all degree levels and non-credit continuing



education courses, career enhancement and personal development courses. Courses to be offered include: business administration, nursing, industrial and liberal arts, agriculture, agribusiness, horticulture, education, trades, wellness, nutrition, leadership, and public administration.

Educational Service Unit #13

\$179,820 Grant / \$133,957 Loan

Total: \$313,777

Location: Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Area(s) served: Banner, Box Butte, Dawes, Morrill, Scotts, Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux

Contact Mr. Terry Miller

Telephone Number: (308) 635-3696

Fax Number: (308) 635-0680

Congressional District(s): 3rd.

Educational Service Unit No. 13 (ESU) acts as an intermediate school service district. The other participants in this project include nine local school districts located within ESU's service area and three institutions of higher education. ESU's service area has a population of 72,750 spread over 10,000 square miles. Most of these communities are separated from the nearest neighboring community by 25 to 50 miles of ranches and sandhills. Because of the sparse population, the schools in the area have small enrollments and staffs that lack the expertise to provide the range of instruction available in urban schools. RUS grant funds will provide videoconferencing equipment to expand the limited distance learning programs that currently exist.

1997 Award:

Began Mercy Foundation, Inc.

Award: \$57,863 Loan / \$75,945 Grant

Total: \$133,808

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Area(s) Served: Counties of Adams and Harrison, Iowa; Colfax, Nebraska

Contact Person: Robert Olson

Telephone Number: 402-398-5510

FAX Number: 402-398-6920

The rural hospitals in the project are a part of the Alegent Health System which is a consolidated operation of the Bergan Mercy Foundation located in Nebraska and Iowa. The goal of this teleradiology project is to provide three isolated rural areas with improved quality medical care in a more timely, efficient and beneficial manner. In addition to improved quality patient care, this project will also enhance recruiting and retention of rural health care professionals. The services



to be provided are X-ray, CAT scan and ultrasound. The project entails connecting each of the end-users sites to the existing radiology physician group base site. The outcome and results expected to be realized include a shorter length of stay for patients, appropriate level of care, and a better utilization of the Emergency Departments. The increased savings to the patient will be beneficial by reducing the cost of health care and providing better access. There will be 128 miles of travel saved for each patient as well.

1995 Grant Awards:

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital

\$180,800
Norfolk

The project will link 10 rural hospitals in northeast Nebraska. The system will provide continuous access to teleradiology, trauma and emergency care.

Bloomfield County Schools

\$322,400
Bloomfield

Telecommunications links will enable ten schools and two community colleges to share teachers for instruction vocational studies and college preparatory courses. In addition, schools will use the system for adult education, college courses, job interviews and nurse training.

1994 Grant Award:

Educational Service Unit #15
\$480,426
Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Hayes, Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties

An educational consortium consisting of 9 high schools, McCook Community College and the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will be linked by two-way interactive video to provide a wide range of high school courses, college-level courses, adult education, and specialized agriculture instruction. In addition, pupils at 6 elementary schools which are adjacent to participating high schools will have access to special classes in languages and gifted and talented student programs, Medical in-service and training for personnel in rural hospitals and clinics, including emergency units and school nurses will also be offered. The system will employ analog interactive classroom equipment which will be linked via a linear broadband transmission over fiber optic lines which is provided by 6 different telephone companies and a cable TV company.